

REMARKS

Claims 21-37 were pending at the time of the Office action. As a result of this amendment, claims 21, 23, 25, 27-28, and 34-36 have been amended, claims 22, 24, 26, and 33 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 21, and 24-37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being incomplete for omitting the strainer material. All independent claims have now been amended to include the strainer material of canceled dependent claim 22.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that claims 24 and 35 create a use of the term pan that is misdescriptive as claimed. The Applicant has canceled claim 24 and has amended claims 25 and 35 to correctly use the term pan in a manner consistent with the Examiner's remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 27 and 34 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being incomplete for omitting the relationship of the air pressurization port and the air chamber and of both to the strainer housing. The Applicant has amended claims 27 and 34 in an attempt to clarify the claims. The Examiner is directed to the drawings and specification where the strainer housing is clearly shown and described as comprising two enclosed air chambers on either side of a water pathway having an inlet into the strainer housing and an outlet away from the strainer housing. Each enclosed air chamber is clearly shown and described to have an air pressurization port. Air pressurization ports are common mechanical structures that are well known in the mechanical arts. The purpose of an air pressurization port is well known in the mechanical arts and consists of allowing adjustment of air pressure within an enclosed air chamber. The Applicant has also amended the specification to better describe the drawings with relation to the air chambers and pressurization ports. These additions are fully supported by the drawings and no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Anticipation can only be established by a single prior art reference disclosing each and every element of the claimed invention. *Structural Rubber Products Co., v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 7070; 223 U.S.P.Q. 1264 (C.A.F.C. 1984). The test for anticipation requires that all of the claimed elements must be found in exactly the same situation and united in the same way to perform the same function in a single unit of the prior art. *Studiengesellschaft Kohle, m.b.H. v. Dart Industries., Inc.*, 762 F.2d 724, 726, 220 U.S.P.Q. 841 at 842 (C.A.F.C. 1984). Anticipation cannot be predicated on teachings in a reference that are vague or based on conjecture. *Datascope Corp. v. SMEC Inc.*, 594 F. Supp. 1036; 224 U.S.P.Q. 694, 698 (D.N.J. 1984).

The Examiner rejected claims 21, 24, 26, 28-33 and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sheren (U.S. Patent 2,503,455).

The Examiner rejected claims 21, 24-26, 28-34 and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Romanoff (U.S. Patent 2,503,455).

The Examiner rejected claims 21, 24, 26, 28-33 and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as obvious over Bauer (US 3,799,217).

The Examiner rejected claims 21-24, 26, 28, 33, and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen (U.S. Patent 615,847).

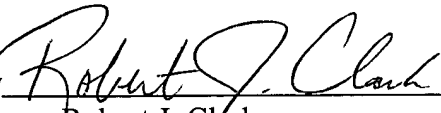
The Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection. Independent claims 21, 28, and 36 have been amended to include the requirement of claim 26, specifically that the enclosed space is an enclosed air chamber. None of the prior art strainers include enclosed air chambers separate from the waterway as now claimed in all of the claims of the present application.

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Accordingly, the Applicant believes claims 21, 23, 25, 27-28, and 34-36 are not anticipated by the prior art cited by the Examiner and respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt consideration of this application and allowance of the claims are requested. If the Examiner should have any question regarding this application or the amendment, a call to Applicant's attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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